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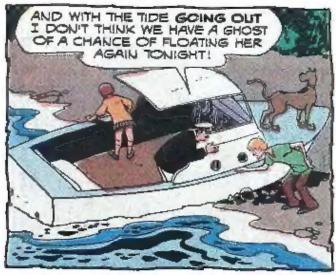




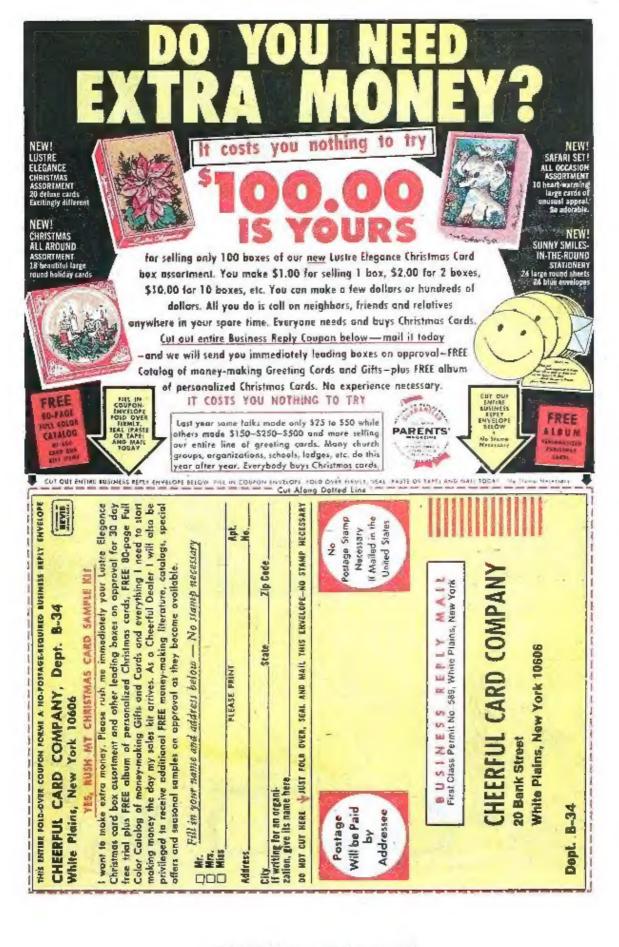




























































































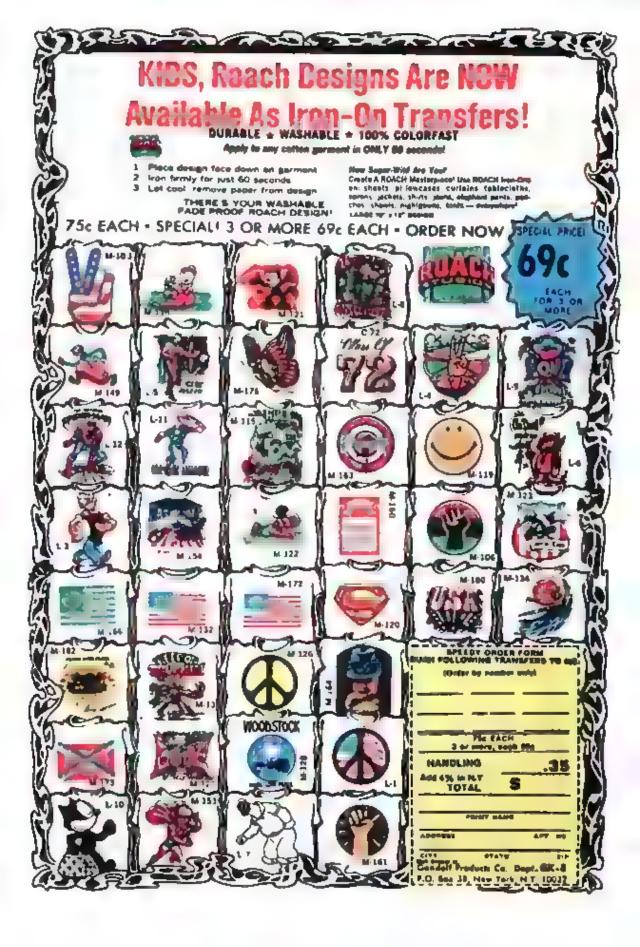






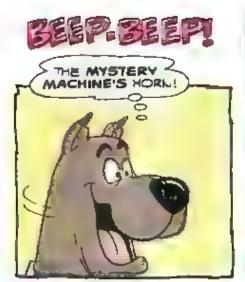






























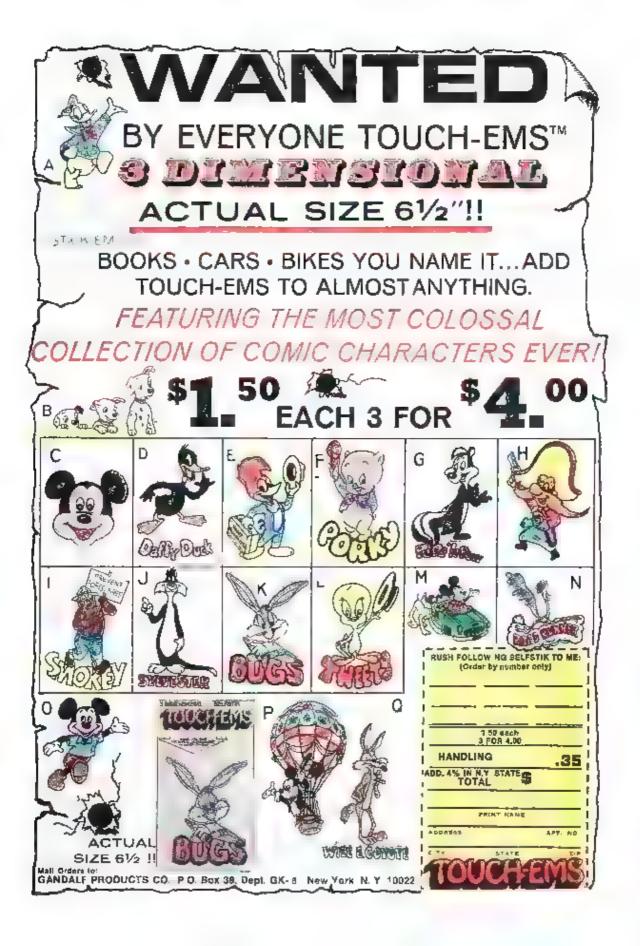






























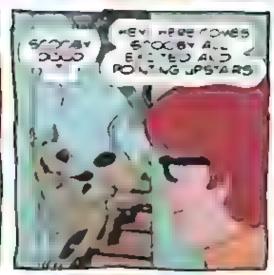


























THE GHOST CRIED MURDER



At Hydevide, a community in northwestern New York state, one afternoon in the summer of 1843, Mr. and Mrs. Bell basked in the sunit garden back of their cottage. When the knocker clanged against the front door, Lucretia Pulver, their hired girl, heatened to answer it.

On the doorstep stood a good-rooking young man in a black flock bost, tancy patterned vest and gray pantaloons. He carried a large tin box resembling a small trunk with a handle. "I have laces, materials, fine risbons and buttons to show the lady of the house," he said.

"Wait here" Lugretia said and she went to the garden. "There is a paddler at the door, Mrs. Bell," she announced.

"Show him into the parlor," directed Mrs. Bell, "We will see him."

Lucretia lingered while the peddler dispayed his wares, and she chose a piece of blue mult for herself. "My father will pay you," she told the peddler, "so leave it at my house, please." She added directions for finding the house before she went to the kitchen to prepare the evening meal

To Lucretia's sufprise, after supper which the peddier shared — Mrs. Bell told her that the man would be staying with them shd the guest room should be readled. After that, Lucretia was informed that her services were no longer required. Mrs. Bell peld her, and puzzled the young woman; returned to her home. She was even more puzzled when the peddier failed to show up at her home with the blue multi.

A week passed. Mrs. Bellical ed at the Pul

ver house, "The peddler has gone and I would like for you to come back to work for us, Lucretia," she said

A few days after Lucret as return to the Bell cottage she heard rapping and banging in the room where the peddler had stayed She ran up to see who was making the noise. The room was empty! She reported the incident to Mrs. Bell.

"Nonsensel" anorted Mrs. Bell. "I didn't hear anything." But Lucretia kept hearing the noises. She also heard footsteps in the room, on the steirs and in the cellar. And she was aware of sounds of something heavy being dragged along the floor. Finally she could stand it no longer and she gave Mrs. Beil notice and left

A few weeks leter the Bells also left town and new tenents moved into the cottage. But terrified by the noises, they moved out after a short time.

The next occupants were Mr. and Mrs. John Fox and their small daughters, Mary and Ruth. Again the noises were heard lidy winds touched the girls' faces as they alept and rumpled the covers on their bed

"It's a spirit trying to tell us something," declared Ruth, and she began to answer the rappings by knocking on the wall. Her knocks were answered by ghostly raps, but she was unable to learn why the spirit was haunting the cottage.

Hearing of this, a Mr. William Duesler received permission to conduct an experiment. By asking questions to be answered by one knock for "yes," and two for "ho," the ghost told Duesjer and a group of witnesses that he had been murdered, robbed and buried in the cellar.

Digging in the cenar uncarthed scrape of hair and a piece of bone, identified by a doctor as part of a human skuli

Years passed, and from the dispidated Bell cottage the noises were still heard. One day a cellar wall collapsed, investigation discussed that it was a false wall. Between it and the real wall were found a man's bones — but no skull — and a tin box resembling a small trunk with a handle. After the bones were properly buried, the noises were never heard again. Apparently the peddier's spirit wall able to rest after years of voicelessly crying "Murder!"

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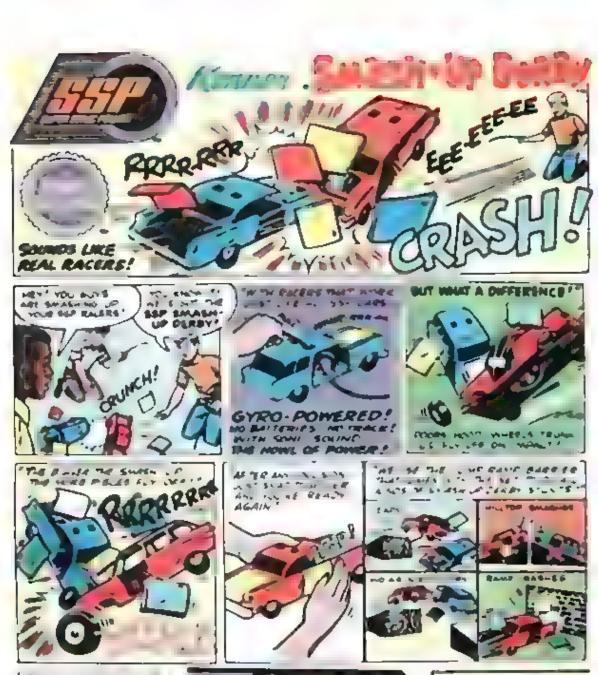




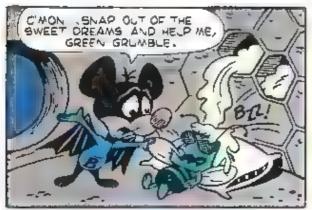










































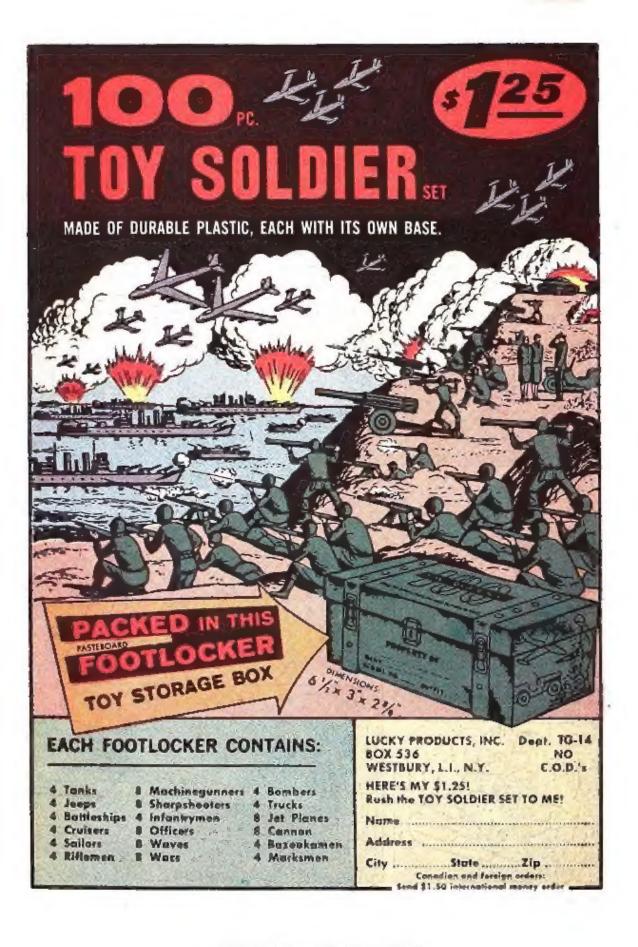
















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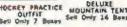




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